AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Claims 1, 5, 8-13, 15-18, 20-31 and 33-62 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 63-113 are newly added.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~1~~14, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is a full-rate communication mode and ~~receiving a request comprises: receiving a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters from said one station to the other station using~~ the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is a half-rate communication mode.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~1~~14, wherein the first communication scheme is CDMA2000 VBR-WB and the second communication scheme is AMR-WB.

4. (Original) A method as defined in claim ~~1~~65, wherein decoding the signal-coding parameters comprises: operating the decoder of said other station in a full-rate mode.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~1~~66, wherein the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices and ~~wherein:~~ generating replacement signal-coding parameters comprises randomly generating replacement fixed codebook indices.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~1~~14, ~~wherein: dropping a portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises~~ further comprising inserting an identification of a communication mode~~; and transmitting the remaining signal-coding parameters comprises transmitting to the decoder of said other station the communication mode identification~~ to be transmitted along with the remaining signal-coding parameters.

8-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for transmitting signal-coding parameters from a first station to a second station,~~ comprising:

~~in one of said first and second stations, coding the~~ receiving signal-coding parameters representative of a sound signal encoded in accordance with a ~~full-rate~~ first communication mode of a first communication scheme;

receiving a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters ~~from said one station to the other station of said first and second stations~~ using a second communication mode of the first communication scheme ~~designed~~ to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters; and

in response to the request, ~~converting the signal-coding parameters coded in full-rate communication mode to signal-coding parameters coded in the second communication mode, wherein converting the signal-coding parameters coded in full-rate communication mode to signal-coding parameters coded in the second communication mode comprises~~ dropping a portion of the signal-coding parameters~~, and wherein dropping a portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises dropping fixed codebook indices; and~~

~~transmitting~~ to enable transmission of the signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme ~~coded in the second communication mode to the other of said first and second stations~~.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for interoperating a first station using a first communication scheme and comprising a first coder and a first decoder with a second station using a second communication scheme and comprising a second coder and a second decoder, wherein communication between the first and second stations is conducted by transmitting signal-coding parameters from the coder of one of the first and second stations to the decoder of the other of said first and second stations, said system~~ comprising: a first station using a first communication scheme and a second station using a second communication scheme;

said first station comprising:

means for encoding a sound signal ~~using the first coder~~ to generate signal-coding parameters according to a first communication mode of the first communication scheme,;

means for receiving a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters ~~from said one station to the other station~~ using ~~said~~ a second communication mode of the first communication scheme,;

means for dropping, in response to said request, a portion of the signal-coding parameters encoded according to the first communication mode of the first communication scheme, and

means for transmitting ~~to the decoder of the other station~~ the remaining signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme~~, wherein the means for dropping a portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises means for dropping fixed codebook indices; and~~

said second station comprising:

means for receiving the remaining signal-coding parameters,

means for generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace said dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters, and

means for decoding the signal-coding parameters using the remaining signal-coding parameters and the generated replacement signal-coding parameters~~, in the decoder of said other station, the signal-coding parameters~~.

20-31.

32. (Currently Amended) A device ~~system for transmitting signal coding parameters from a first station to a second station,~~ comprising:

~~in one of said first and second stations, a coder~~ means for ~~coding~~ receiving signal-coding parameters representative of ~~the~~ a sound signal encoded in accordance with a ~~full rate~~ first communication mode of a first communication scheme;

means for receiving a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters ~~from said one station to the other station of said first and second stations~~ using a second communication mode of the first communication scheme ~~designed~~ to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters; and

~~means for converting, in response to the request, the signal coding parameters coded in full rate communication mode to signal coding parameters coded in the second communication mode, wherein the means for converting the signal coding parameters coded in full rate communication mode to signal coding parameters coded in the second communication mode comprises~~ means for dropping a portion of the signal-coding parameters~~, and wherein the means for dropping a portion of the signal coding parameters comprises means for dropping fixed codebook indices; and~~

~~means for transmitting~~ to enable transmission of the remaining signal-coding parameters ~~coded in~~ using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme ~~to the other of said first and second stations~~.

33-62. (Canceled)

63. (New) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a first communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

64. (New) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices.

65. (New) A method as defined in claim 63, further comprising transmitting the remaining signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme; generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters; and decoding the signal-coding parameters including the replaced portion of the signal-coding parameters according to the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

66. (New) A method as defined in claim 14, further comprising: generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters.

67. (New) A method as defined in claim 14, further comprising an initial step of encoding the sound signal in accordance with the first communication mode of the first communication scheme.

68. (New) A method as defined in claim 14, further comprising transmitting the remaining signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme.

69. (New) A device as defined in claim 32, further comprising means for encoding the sound signal in accordance with a first communication mode of the first communication scheme that is interoperable with a first communication mode of a second communication scheme; and

means for transmitting the remaining signal-coding parameters according to a second communication mode of the first communication scheme that is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

70. (New) A device as defined in claim 32, wherein the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices.

71. (New) A device as defined in claim 32, wherein the means for receiving a request

is arranged to receive a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters using a half-rate communication mode.

72. (New) A device as defined in claim 32, wherein the device is a CDMA2000 VBR-WB coder.

73. (New) A device as defined in claim 32, wherein:

the means for dropping a portion of the signal-coding parameters is arranged to insert an identification of the communication mode to be transmitted along with the remaining signal-coding parameters.

74. (New) A device as defined in claim 32, further comprising means for transmitting the remaining signal-coding parameters according to a second communication mode of the first communication scheme that is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

75. (New) A device comprising:

means for receiving an indication that signal-coding parameters have been transmitted using a second communication mode of a first communication scheme instead of a first communication mode of the first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters, wherein the signal-coding parameters are representative of a sound signal; and

means for generating, in response to said indication, replacement signal-coding parameters to replace a portion of the signal-coding parameters dropped to reduce the bit rate during transmission in order to produce second signal-coding parameters according to a first communication mode of a second communication scheme.

76. (New) A device as defined in claim 75, wherein the means for generating replacement signal-coding parameters is arranged to randomly generate replacement signal-coding parameters.

77. (New) A device as defined in claim 76, wherein:

the randomly generated replacement signal-coding parameters comprise randomly generated replacement fixed codebook indices.

78. (New) A device as defined in claim 75, further comprising means for transmitting the signal coding parameters including the replaced portion of the signal-coding parameters according to the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

79. (New) A device as defined in claim 75, further comprising means for operating a decoder in a full-rate mode.

80. (New) A device as defined in claim 75, further comprising means for receiving the signal-coding parameters and means for decoding the sound signal using the second signal-coding parameters.

81. (New) A method comprising:

receiving an indication that signal-coding parameters have been transmitted using a second communication mode of a first communication scheme instead of a first communication mode of the first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters, wherein the signal-coding parameters are representative of a sound signal encoded according to the first communication mode of the first communication scheme; and

in response to said indication, generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace a portion of the signal-coding parameters dropped to reduce the bit rate during transmission in order to produce second signal-coding parameters according to a first communication mode of a second communication scheme.

82. (New) A method as defined in claim 81, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with the first communication mode of the

second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

83. (New) A method as defined in claim 81, further comprising transmitting the second signal coding parameters according to the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

84. (New) A method as defined in claim 81, further comprising receiving the signal-coding parameters and decoding the sound signal using the second signal-coding parameters.

85. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a first input configured to receive signal-coding parameters representative of a sound signal encoded in accordance with a first communication mode of a first communication scheme;

a second input configured to receive a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters using a second communication mode of the first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters; and

a processing module configured to drop a portion of the signal-coding parameters to enable transmission of the remaining signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme.

86. (New) A device as defined in claim 85, further comprising: an encoder configured to encode the sound signal in accordance with a first communication mode of the first communication scheme that is interoperable with a first communication mode of a second communication scheme; and

a transmitter configured to transmit the remaining signal-coding parameters according to a second communication mode of the first communication scheme that is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

87. (New) A device as defined in claim 85, wherein the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices.

88. (New) A device as defined in claim 85, wherein the second input is further arranged to receive a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters using a half-rate communication mode.

89. (New) A device as defined in claim 85, wherein the device is a CDMA2000 VBR-WB coder.

90. (New) A device as defined in claim 85, wherein the processing module is further arranged to insert an identification of the communication mode to be transmitted along with the remaining signal-coding parameters.

91. (New) A device as defined in claim 85, further comprising a transmitter configured to transmit the remaining signal-coding parameters according to a second communication mode of the first communication scheme that is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

92. (New) A device comprising:

a receiver configured to receive an indication that signal-coding parameters have been transmitted using a second communication mode of a first communication scheme instead of a first communication mode of the first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters, wherein the signal-coding parameters are representative of a sound signal; and

a processing module configured to generate, in response to said indication, replacement signal-coding parameters to replace a portion of the signal-coding parameters dropped to reduce the bit rate during transmission in order to produce second signal-coding parameters according to a first communication mode of a second communication scheme.

93. (New) A device as defined in claim 92, wherein the processing module is further arranged to randomly generate replacement signal-coding parameters.

94. (New) A device as defined in claim 93, wherein the randomly generated replacement signal-coding parameters comprise randomly generated replacement fixed codebook indices.

95. (New) A device as defined in claim 92, further comprising a transmitter configured to transmit the signal coding parameters including the replaced portion of the signal-coding parameters according to the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

96. (New) A device as defined in claim 92, further comprising a second processing module configured to operate a decoder in a full-rate mode.

97. (New) A device as defined in claim 92, wherein the receiver is further configured to receive the signal-coding parameters, the device further comprising a decoder configured to decode the sound signal using the second signal-coding parameters.

98. (New) A computer readable medium storing program instructions usable by a communication device to perform operations comprising:

receiving signal-coding parameters representative of a sound signal encoded in accordance with a first communication mode of a first communication scheme;

receiving a request to transmit the signal-coding parameters using a second communication mode of the first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters; and

in response to the request, dropping a portion of the signal-coding parameters to enable transmission of the remaining signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme.

99. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 98, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a first communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

100. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 98, wherein the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices.

101. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 98, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is a half-rate communication mode.

102. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 99, wherein the first communication scheme is CDMA2000 VBR-WB and the second communication scheme is AMR-WB.

103. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 98, said operations further comprising: inserting an identification of the communication mode to be transmitted along with the remaining signal-coding parameters.

104. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 98, said operations further comprising: generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters.

105. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 104, wherein the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices and wherein generating replacement signal-coding parameters comprises randomly regenerating the fixed codebook indices.

106. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 99, said operations further comprising transmitting the remaining signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme; generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the dropped portion of the signal-coding parameters; and decoding the signal-coding parameters including the replaced portion of the signal-coding parameters according to the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

107. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 106, wherein the first communication mode of the second communication scheme is a full-rate mode.

108. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 98, said operations further comprising an initial step of encoding the sound signal in accordance with the first communication mode of the first communication scheme.

109. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 98, said operations further comprising transmitting the remaining signal-coding parameters using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme.

110. (New) A computer readable medium storing program instructions usable by a communication device to perform operations comprising:

receiving an indication that signal-coding parameters have been transmitted using a second communication mode of a first communication scheme instead of a first communication mode of the first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said signal-coding parameters, wherein the signal-coding parameters are representative of a sound signal encoded according to the first communication mode of the first communication scheme; and

in response to said indication, generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace a portion of the signal-coding parameters dropped to reduce the bit rate during transmission in order to produce second signal-coding parameters according to a first

communication mode of a second communication scheme.

111. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 110, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

112. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 110, said operations further comprising transmitting the second signal coding parameters according to the first communication mode of the second communication scheme.

113. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in claim 110, said operations further comprising receiving the signal-coding parameters and decoding the sound signal using the second signal-coding parameters.